

sports

AU men’s soccer welcomes new head coach Nick Roberts

Dean Paolucci
Reporter

The men’s soccer team at Ashland University will not be playing a fall season this year according to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The GLIAC announced on Aug. 11 that the conference would suspend all competition until Jan. 1, 2021, a moment that first year head coach Nick Roberts and the team found extremely difficult.

“You feel for the kids,” Roberts said. “They work all year for this stuff. I was a student athlete myself so I know what they must be going through, but it is what it is.”

Roberts will begin his first year at AU coming over from Urbana University, where he was the head coach since 2008. While at Urbana, Roberts was named Great Midwest Conference Coach of the Year in 2012 and Mountain East Coach of the Year in 2016.

“It’s a little bit strange for me being a new coach,” Roberts said. “I guess if there is any

silver lining, it gives me a little bit of a chance to work with the guys on a training basis, get a feel for where they are at and where the program is at.”

While the team will not have any competition in the 2020 fall season, the team has begun practice and workouts but must do so under certain guidelines directly from Ashland University.

“Numbers are the problem since right now we are working with groups of 10 that are split up,” Roberts said.

“That eliminates what you really wanna do, which is the 11-on-11 game situation. That’s a big part of our practice so we have to do a lot of small exercises and a lot of technical work with that time instead.”

Roberts also stated that due to there being no competition in the GLIAC in 2020, keeping motivation will be key.

“In all the preseasons I’ve been through over the years, you get three weeks into training and you are already sick of the preseason and want to just go out and play the games,”



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Joseph Renner pictured above

Roberts said. “That is gonna be tough, no matter what competitive sport it is.”

Roberts did say that the GLIAC presidents athletic directors and coaches from the schools in the conference were meeting and discussing the idea of

a potential spring season that would be “around seven games and then going right into the conference tournament.” However, the GLIAC has yet to announce anything yet directly on whether fall sports would be pushed to the spring season.

“The kids are ready,” Roberts said. “The numbers look great and they look to be in great shape and I know they wanna get out there.”

Volleyball team eager to build on record



Photo retrieved from: goashlandeagles.com

From left: Brooke Peiffer, Chelsey Farris, Sophie Dahn

NATE POWALIE
Reporter

While college sports are currently on pause due to the pandemic, Ashland University is keeping its teams motivated for when Jan. 1 rolls around.

One team holding practices to help build the motivation and prep for the upcoming season is the Eagles’ Volleyball team. Following a quick exit in the GLIAC tournament from last year, the Eagles have a chip on their shoulders as they look to build on last season’s 24-7 record.

Third-year coach Kevin Foeman has had some early success with the program in his first two seasons, compiling 49 wins and two GLIAC postseason appearances. While volleyball practices are going on, Coach Foeman has focused on what is ahead.

“The biggest thing right now we’re looking forward to is playing,” Foeman said.

With the schedule still being unreleased, there is confusion

as to what is to come in the upcoming weeks. But while the regular season is still in limbo, practices continue to roll without a hitch.

While the big goals of the upcoming season are still unclear at this moment, the practices are basically scrimmages for the team splitting into two smaller teams. And Foeman hopes that these small practices will help to develop the team better for the winter and spring season ahead.

“For the fall practices, we’re taking our focus toward smaller goals, and we’re using these so we can compete against each other in smaller groups,” he said.

While the Eagles did lose Sophi Cudworth to graduation in May, they still have almost all of their roster from last season, including stars such as Brooke Peiffer, Lexi Lombardo, McKinley Smith, and others.

Five new players have joined the roster for the upcoming 2020-21 season, including new freshman outside hitter

Evelyn Haydu (Wadsworth High School), outside and right side hitter Emma Quandt (Broadneck High School and South River Volleyball Club, from Annapolis, Maryland), and Defensive Specialist Katie Thompson (Padua Franciscan High School).

The Eagles also added two transfers to their group in outside hitter and defensive specialist Heidi Fausze (Originally went to Eastern Michigan University, will start play as a junior) and a Middle Blocker who is an Ohio native in Courtney Rosebrook (attended Patrick Henry High School, will start play as a senior) from Lake Erie College.

With a new season facing the Eagles, the pressure is on to keep up their successful performance but to advance and have a deep playoff run. After having early exits in the GLIAC tournament the last two seasons, there is a big chip on the players’ shoulders when looking ahead to the 2021 calendar year.

AU women’s soccer stays motivated despite pandemic



Photo retrieved from: goashlandeagles.com

Bella Petrock pictured above

JORDANN LOPATA
Sports Editor

With the news of the coronavirus pandemic cancelling a fall sports season, the AU women’s soccer team is still practicing and putting in the work to hopefully have a successful spring season.

Last year the Eagles finished their season 14-5-1, which tied the 2015 squad for the programs most wins since the 2004 season. The Eagles made it to their second NCAA tournament last year, but sadly lost in the first round to Mckendree in Overtime.

With COVID-19 leaving teams questioning if they would get a season in the spring or not, the eagles are still working hard for the future and making sure they make the most of the situation that they are put in.

Last season, the eagles had four players named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region teams, Sydney Wright was named to the first team, followed by Senior Hannah Lee and Senior Emily Mark on the second team, and Deijah Swihart qualifying for the third team spot.

Senior goaltender Abby Lampe reflected on how she is staying motivated during practices, even with the looming possibility of not

having a season to finish out her senior year.

“It’s weird. It kind of feels like we’re working towards what could be nothing for the seniors but I know that my work is going to make my younger teammates better and in turn will make the program better for when they can get back to a normal looking season.”

Lampe also discussed the changes that the team has made to practices and the precautions that the team is taking to be safe during these questionable times.

“We are in pods that are practicing separately, we wear masks to and from training, temperature checks, campus shield, and stressing the importance of hygiene and following the guidelines from the university.”

Whether the Eagles have a season or not in the spring, they are confident in their abilities to power through, and have a winning season in the future.

“I am just taking in my senior year and spending time with my friends and playing the sport that I love,” Lampe said.

So while the pandemic has forced different sport programs to be uncertain of a season, teams are still staying motivated in hope to play when the spring comes around.



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